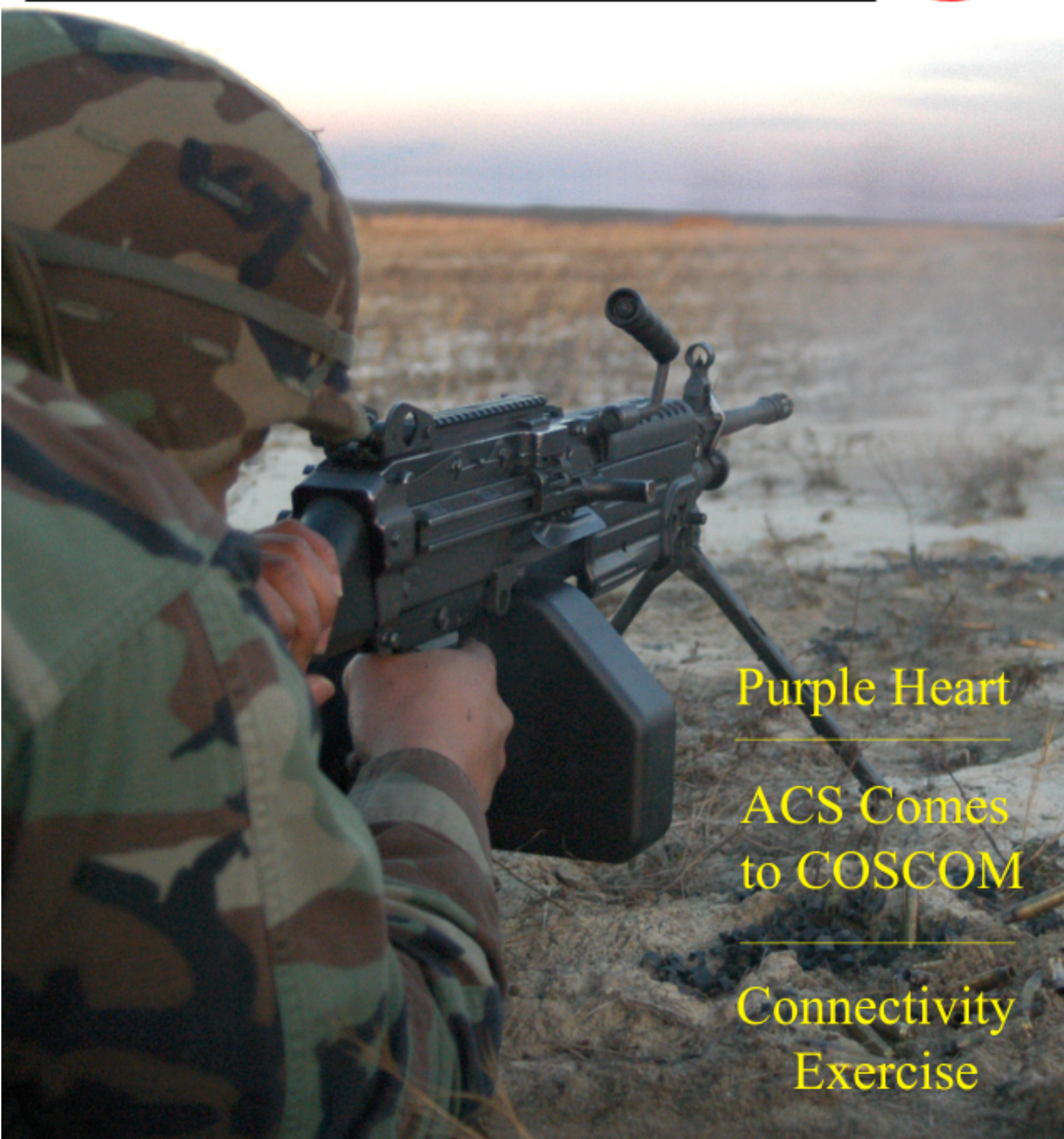


Blackjack Provider

1st COSCOM: The Army's Only Contingency Support Command

Spring 2004



Purple Heart

ACS Comes
to COSCOM

Connectivity
Exercise

Blackjack Provider

1st COSCOM: The Army's Only Contingency Support Command

Spring 2004

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A soldier from the 1st Corps Support Command fires rounds from an M-249 squad automatic weapon during a live fire range.
Photo by Spc. Timothy Hettich

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Blackjack Provider

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A newsletter printed quarterly by the 1st COSCOM Public Affairs Office. Print or visual submissions of general interest to the Blackjack Provider are invited. Email submissions to coscompao@bragg.army.mil or call 910-396-6523.

Contents of the Blackjack Provider are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Dept. of Defense, the Dept. of the Army, Fort Bragg, or the 1st Corps Support Command. The Blackjack Provider is an unofficial publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 1st Corps Support Command. This newsletter follows the AP style guide.

From the Commander...

In the past quarter, the 1st Corps Support Command continued to provide superb support for the XVIII Airborne Corps and other combat units in CONUS, as well as deployed units in support of OEF/OIF operations.

We have welcomed back many of our outstanding soldiers like the 24th CSG at Fort Stewart, 101st CSG at Fort Campbell, and the 46th CSG and 507th CSG at Fort Bragg. They, like hundreds of other COSCOM troops, have served their nation well and we are justifiably proud of them. We are also thankful for the support provided by the families for our deployed soldiers. Well done!

We are an active and engaged Army at war against terrorism and must remain ready to serve and support where we are needed. We must remain

fit and ready, I expect you to embrace Warrior Ethos and never forget that you are soldiers first and logisticians second.

A recent initiative focused on incorporating Warrior Ethos into the COSCOM is the institution of Warrior PT on Tuesdays and Thursdays where we concentrate on fitness training tied to instilling martial spirit. We are training our first group of leader-instructors, who will teach combative hand-to-hand techniques to our soldiers. I expect all COSCOM units to train in the program. This program added to our CLFX training will ensure that we remain ready for possible deployment.

Reconstitution in another priority that demands our attention. A lot of resources are tapped to refit our units as well as assisting the Corps in their

reconstitution. All of you will be involved in this endeavor. I know that I can count on you to get the job done.

Finally, in the months ahead, I will travel throughout the greater COSCOM and abroad in order to visit training and CTC rotations to discuss transformation initiatives; in particular, our Army, XVIII Airborne Corps, and COSCOM. The Army is changing and the Corps is at the tip of the spear leading the initiative. This is a great time to be in the Army.

FIRST TEAM!



Col. (P) Yves J. Fontaine took command of the 1st COSCOM in March of 2003.

1st COSCOM

COMMAND TEAM



Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen assumed responsibility for the 1st COSCOM in June of 2002.

From the Command Sergeant Major...

The First Corps Support Command is the only contingency support command in the U.S. Army.

We are capable of deploying soldiers anywhere in the world within 18 hours or less.

With that title comes great responsibility, not only of our noncommissioned officers but for our junior enlisted leaders as well.

We currently have soldiers deployed to more than 11 different countries providing combat service support. With these deployments, more and more of our soldiers have been placed into leadership positions where they have excelled. The leaders are now seasoned veterans, which can efficiently handle the rigors of combat and successfully lead their soldiers towards "Mission Complete".

We continue to induct soldiers into the Noncommissioned Officers Corps, both in garrison and in combat zones across the globe. Constant professional development of today's

leaders, and continuous training and mentoring of tomorrow's leader will enable us to accomplish our mission.

With the transformation initiatives of the Army, we must continue to train as we fight. Our soldiers must be riflemen first and logisticians second. This is the primary reason why our soldiers have succeeded in every mission given.

We live and breath the Warrior Ethos every day. We are the soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the 1st COSCOM.

FIRST TEAM!

RADIO CHECK, ON

1ST COSCOM SETS UP COMMO GEAR, GETS

**Story and photos by Spc. Travis Edwards
1st COSCOM PAO**

A critical component of any field exercise or real-world mission is communication. Units and the soldiers within them must be able to communicate with each other to get the mission accomplished.

In early part of February, the XVIII Airborne Corps and 1st Corps Support Command tested those abilities during the warfighter ramp-up exercise on post.

The 1st COSCOM G-6, the unit communications section, was tasked to ensure the 1st COSCOM accomplished the mission.

Information system analysts and network administrators debugged thousands of lines of code and trouble-shot dozens of system errors.



“To bring the level of communication required to maintain effective command and control to the unit leadership is a huge task,” said Sgt. Jarod Gatson, signal support systems operator, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st COSCOM. “We meet new challenges each time we go to the field. And there, in the field we (the communications section) work through the issues as a team.”

In the other tent, signal support system specialists and combat service support soldiers installed ethernet cabling to separate computer stations for the command and control cell.

“Each section within the Tactical Operations Center is allotted a specific amount of ethernet connections,” said the unit network administrator, Spc. Dianna Black, HHC, 1st COSCOM. “And as such, we set up those connections for them so they can effectively communicate between each other and with other command and control centers in the exercise.”



Spc. Dianna Black, a network administrator from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Corps Support Command, redeploys network cable within the 1st COSCOM Tactical Operations Center. The cable was used to connect more than 150 users to the 1st COSCOM's tactical server.

Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Green, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Corps Support Command, a signal support system operator, splices WF16 wire during the warfighter ramp-up exercise at Fort Bragg.

VER?

CONNECTED

With each new email account and Intranet/Internet connection more coding is complied within the unit servers, causing more possible issues.

“We monitor the servers, untangle mixed codes and fix any errors that arise,” said Black. “The more users we add, the more issues we find. It is challenging but it is not overwhelming. We can trouble shoot any errors on the spot.”

The G-6 designs, manages and controls communication circuits and systems throughout the 1st COSCOM tactical operation centers.

“We have more than 150 users under our control. We must ensure they have constant reliable communication throughout the entire exercise: from the first moment they hit the ground with the assault command post, to the main operation centers to the permanent structures,” said Master Sgt. James Brown, automation NCO, HHC, 1st COSCOM.

The communication sections within the 1st COSCOM communicate using military radios and satellite communication equipment, which send both data and voice transmissions.

“From anywhere in the world, we can communicate back to the 1st COSCOM 24-hour Emergency Operations Center. This acts as a very secure and reliable reach back communications capability,” said Gatson.

Once the assault command post and tactical operations center are on-line and communicating internally, the unit will attempt to contact its outlying units, such as forward logistical elements and logistical task forces.

“Once we are up and running we assist the subordinate units with their communication setup. And visa-versa if they ‘go hot’ before us,” said Gatson.



During a previous field exercise in 2003 Spc. Dianna Black and Spc. Kevin Simpson, network administrators from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Corps Support Command, trouble shoot system errors in a tactical environment.

“We monitor the servers, untangle mixed codes and fix any errors that arise,” said Spc. Dianna Black, HHC, 1st COSCOM. “The more users we add, the more issues we find. It is challenging but it is not overwhelming. We can trouble shoot any errors on the spot.”

Sometimes the team will encounter problems which require further assistance, said Black.

“Communications sections within different units maintain close working relationships which tend to help each other when one team is out of ideas,” Black said. “For instance, if the 1st COSCOM was having unknown errors on their servers, a simple radio call to the XVIII Airborne Corps or 35th Signal Brigade communications shops might solve the problem. And of course, they can do the same thing with us.”

“It’s similar to the Army slogan, An Army of One,” said Black, “alone we are our own force, but communicating together we are unstoppable.”

Troops return from OIF

Story and Photos by Spc. Travis Edwards
1st COSCOM PAO

Several teams of logisticians from the 1st Corps Support Command returned in February to Fort Bragg from deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Friends and families welcomed them home with ceremonies, balloons, and promises of “good home cooked meals.”

The 1st COSCOM’s 546th and 403rd Transportation Companies, and the 610th Movement Control Team served in the same theatre of operations but performed entirely different missions while supporting the warfighter.

The 546th Trans. Maint. Co. was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division operating in and around Baghdad, Iraq. There, they fell under the 407th Forward Support Battalion providing combat service support to front-line infantry soldiers.

“The level of professionalism shown by our young leaders, especially the noncommissioned officers, was exemplary,” said 2nd Lt. Adrienne Harrison, 546th Trans. Co. platoon leader.

“We convoyed out with the 82nd Division soldiers on hundreds of missions ensuring logistical support was provided,” said Harrison.

Along with the team from 1st COSCOM was a radio operator maintainer from the Corps Distribution Command, which

Staff Sgt. Steve Bachelor, Corps Distribution Command, 1st Corps Support Command, holds his son, Kenrick, after a welcome home ceremony Friday at Green Ramp, Pope Air Force Base. Bachelor was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with a team of logisticians attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Photo by Spc. Travis Edwards/ 1st COSCOM PAO

provides logistical and technical support to logisticians within the XVIII Airborne Corps.

Staff Sgt. Steve Bachelor, the radio operator maintainer from the CDC who provides automated supply systems, deployed just two weeks after his son, Kenrick, was born.

“When Kenrick was born, I knew I had only a few weeks to be with him. There was so much I knew I was going to miss,” said Bachelor. “Every moment was precious.”

“When I came through the hangar and saw my family waiting for me, it was hard to believe I was actually home,”



said Bachelor. "It was just like a movie, but this time I was the hero."

The 610th MCT was attached to the 101st Airborne Division operating in and around Mosul, Iraq. There, they fell under the 101st Corps Support Group, a 1st COSCOM asset located at Fort Campbell, providing combat service support in northern Iraq.

"Our team controlled all ground, rail, and air operations from Mosul Army Airfield, Mosul, Iraq," said Cpt. Sarah Kurpe, officer in charge of the 610th MCT. "My soldiers set-up the airfield in early May 2003 which opened up the region to humanitarian aid and medical evacuation support."

We worked with convoys, railheads, and flight towers to ensure class nine supplies were filtered throughout the region. Working with units like the 546th Trans. Co. and other combat service support logisticians we were able to



Family members of the 403rd Transportation Company, 1st Corps Support Command, cheer as their loved ones deplane Feb. 18 after being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nearly a year. The welcome home ceremony was held at Green Ramp, Pope Air Force Base
Photo by Staff Sgt. Cassandra Shafer-Billingsley/ 1st COSCOM PAO

push the necessary supplies across the battlefield helping to ensure every mission was a success, said Kurpe.

The 403rd Trans. Co. served for almost a year at the Port of Doha in Kuwait and the Arrival/ Departure Airfield Control Group, which supported coalition forces in the region.



He's got heart

Spc. Michael R. Boyd, 546th Transportation Company, 1st Corps Support Command receives a Purple Heart from Col. (P) Yves J. Fontaine, 1st COSCOM commander, for injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device during his deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Spc. Timothy Hettich/ 1st COSCOM PAO

CDC helps raise money for cancer research during Radio-A-Thon

**Story and photo by
Spc. Timothy Hettich
1st COSCOM PAO**

Imagine receiving news of a loved one who has been diagnosed with cancer. Whether they are a member of your immediate family or a distant relative, the feeling of helplessness, fear and sadness may soon consume your thoughts. These feelings and thoughts are shared by millions of American each year, and each year millions more donate money to cancer research organizations.

For the past three years, soldiers from the 1st Corps Support Command, Corps Distribution Command, (formerly the 2nd Corps Materiel Management Center), have been assisting in collecting donations from the community to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This year was no different as a dozen soldiers manned phones taking donations, while others encouraged the public to donate Feb. 5 to satellite donation centers.

The donations assist funding for cancer research for children under the age of 18.

Local radio station, WKML 95.7 FM, along with the Fayetteville Chick-Fil-A, sponsored the 17th annual Radio-A-Thon.

This year's event raised more than \$145,000 in two-days-its highest-grossing event ever, said WKML's Samantha Anderson.

Besides helping by answering phones for the Radio-A-Thon, soldiers sat in a booth outside Chick-Fil-A for passers-by to stop and make donations.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Anderson, CDC, was at the booth to help collect donations and provide some insight to the mission of St. Jude.

"I believe so strongly in this because it truly helps to save lives. A child's life doesn't deserve to get cut short,"



Staff Sgt. Anthony Anderson, Corps Distribution Command, 1st Corps Support Command, explains to Carla Smith, St. Jude's dedication to finding cures for cancer in children.

said Anderson. "This is the number one cancer research facility in the country and the things they find are passed on to other areas all over the world, so our help really makes a difference."

Along with troop support from CDC, Fayetteville Firefighters and airmen from Pope Air Force Base assisted in the event.

Both military personnel and civilians made donations.

Staff Sgt. Melanie Gray, CDC, 1st COSCOM, has been donating her time to the event for the past two years.

"I have a child of my own and I would do anything possible to help children in need," she said.

Steven W. Jordan, an Eastover resident, makes donations to this cause every year. "I've been listening to the radio since five o'clock this morning and decided I would drive down here to make a donation in person, said Jordan."

"The support we get from our chain of command is great," said Gray, "especially when it is for St. Jude Children's Hospital."

Accountability: What you don't know, may cost you dough

Commentary by
Capt. Sonise Lumbaca
1st COSCOM PAO

Keeping positive control of your hand receipts and accountability of your equipment can be the difference between having a successful command or paying thousands of dollars out of your pay check. The same holds true for those who are not in command but are still required to maintain accountability of equipment organic to their platoon and or section.

The key to a successful relief of hand receipt is continuous monitoring of the equipment that you own. Supervisors should ensure that they hand receipt equipment down to the lowest level; to those who directly and constantly use the equipment (user level). Toolkits are a good example of equipment that should be hand receipted down to the lowest level. The company commander will most likely not use it; the platoon sergeant probably won't either. However, that squad leader or team member will use it.

Units are loosing enormous amount of money, assets and time in locating equipment because, at lower levels, many company commanders and their soldiers do not understand the hand receipt and accountability of equipment process. Rather than holding the individual accountable for the lost piece of equipment they signed for, it is written off as a loss. This is not the right answer. We owe it to the taxpayers to ensure that their dollars are not wasted, and we owe it to our selves to ensure that we are combat ready in every aspect. Accountability is key to this.

Some hand receipt holders will look at the equipment without ensuring that the serial number is correct or if it is the right piece of equipment. While, when updating hand receipt signatures, others do not bother to check if items have been added. These hand receipt holders sign the documents not realizing that they signed for items that they do not have in their possession. When it is time to change over the hand receipt, report of surveys and statement of charges occur. Unfortunately, the inexperienced hand receipt hold is left paying a hefty bill that could have been avoided.



There is also other information that hand receipt holders are unfamiliar with that can cause future problems. For example, some hand receipt holders are unaware that after taking over a platoon, squad, etc., if a change of hand receipt doesn't occur within 30 days, they automatically assume responsibility of the equipment organic to that unit.

The best measures to emplace, in order to ensure that change of hand receipts and overall equipment accountability doesn't turn into a "nightmare" is education and command influence. Education at every level is key. Anyone who signs

for the equipment should be educated on the hand receipts and equipment accountability process so that they understand their role in keeping positive control of their equipment and how the system operates. There is more to looking at a piece of equipment and then signing for it. Positives control of the equipment, sub-hand receipting (when someone wishes to borrow the equipment), 10 percent monthly and 100 semi-annually inventories, are just a few examples of how an equipment accountability program can operate.

Hand receipt holders should also be educated on the sub-hand receipt process. And this is where the process of hand receipting equipment down to the lowest level comes in. Each hand receipt holder should understand that that piece of equipment is just as important as keeping accountability of sensitive items; they should know where it is at all times.

How can a hand receipt holder learn everything there is about equipment accountability? Highly trained supply sergeants and property book officers are the best assets a unit can have. They are not only trained to understand all aspects of accountability, but they also have a few tricks of the trades, legal of course, to make equipment accountability simple; especially for those who have large hand receipts.

Field Manual 10-15, Basic Doctrine for Supply and Storage, and FM 10-27-4, Organizational Supplies for Unit Leaders, are also helpful manuals to use. With proper coordination and training, time set aside (use the six week training calendar), proper accountability can promote nothing but overall unit success.

Dragon Cafe amongst

Food Service amongst

Story and Photo's by Spc. Travis D. Edwards

Months of hard work and field training has once again helped to make a group of professional soldiers among of the best in the Army; but these soldiers are not a part of the infantry or the elite special forces. They are food service professionals from the 1st Corps Support Command who order, prepare and cook the food soldiers eat while in the field.

These soldiers are members of India Company, 4th Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Regiment, 1st COSCOM and can now say they are among the best field cooks in the United States Army after having won second place in the Dept. of the Army 2003 Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Excellence Program.



Pfc. William Quesnel, 4th Battalion of the 159th Aviation Regiment, 1st Corps Support Command, serves fruit salad to a United States Forces Command Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Excellence Program evaluator Mar. 5 at Fort Bragg.

“This has been a great experience. One which I can always

look back on and remember, our (field kitchen) team was among the best in the Army,” said Sgt. Hector Garcia, team sanitation officer.

The team will travel to Denver, Colorado for the Joint Services



Sgt. First Class Robin Gross-Crawford, non-commissioned officer in charge, directs a soldier on how to properly use the soakage pit. The pit allows water from soiled dishes to drain safely.

Excellence in Food Service Awards next quarter to celebrate their accomplishments as food service professionals and receive their award for runner-up in the field kitchen category.

Army food service professionals and members of the International Food Service Executives Association, an organization of management-level food service professionals, judge the program.

The 4-159th competed in the field kitchen category on several different levels ranging from unit level to post level

the Army's best



MKT from L-R: Sgt. Hector Garcia, Spc. Matthew Green, Spc. Camira Brown, Spc. William Quesnel, Pfc. Ronnisha Bush, Sgt. Denise Felton, Sfc. Robin Gross-Crawford (kneeling).

hard for the competitions. Getting the job done was very important to me and everyone on the team,” said Pfc. Tamira Brown, mobile kitchen team member. “The soldiers in our unit know they’ll get the second best field chow in the entire Army. That makes it all worth it.”

Soldiers from the 1st COSCOM can rest easy knowing that the food they receive in the field will be prepared by cooks who have proven themselves as food service professionals. They are members of an elite fellowship who have what it takes to win a

to FORSCOM level and finally in the Active Army level. Phillip A. Connelly Award for food service excellence.

“We take in everything the evaluators point out and improve on those areas making them even better,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robin Gross-Crawford, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the team. “The soldiers will now set their sights on the Dept. of the Army competition, working hard to feed the force.”

Overall the competition has made the food service professionals better at their jobs and in turn, provided a better product for soldiers in the field and real-world missions, said team officials. “We trained long and



Two soldiers from the MKT team replenish beverages during the evening mess. Five gallon jugs house the variety of beverages served during breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ACS, First Team: A new beginning

Story by **Capt. Sonise Lumbaca**
1st COSCOM PAO

Society has many perceptions of the Army. Hardcore stoic fighting machines seem to be the images embedded in the minds of those who observe one of our nation's fighting forces; be it in television, periodicals or the big screen. However there is a softer side; and this side encompasses not only the soldier as a person, but also their family. The Army recognizes that family help contributes to the individual success of a soldier, a unit, and the whole fighting force.

The Army also recognizes the importance of ensuring that soldiers and their families are taken cared of and that there is always room for improvement of quality of life. Because of the soldier's need and or his family's need, the Army Community Service was created. ACS assists commanders in maintaining readiness of not only the individual soldier, but also families and communities within the Army. This is done by developing, coordinating, and delivering services that promote "self-reliance, resiliency, and stability during war and peace".

Not only is ACS available on Fort Bragg, their services have been taken a step further by creating satellite offices for major commands on Fort Bragg. For the troops within the 1st Corps Support Command, having an ACS office in their area of daily operations will bring many benefits. And those benefits will come with a friendly face.

Kim Young, the Family Advocacy Program Assistant, is the 1st COSCOM's ACS satellite office manger. Young's overall responsibility is prevention and education. "I help



Name: Kim Young
Title: ACS Program Assistant
Education:
Master Degree in
Clinical Psychology
Contact Info:
910 - 396- 5521



Kim Young, 1st COSCOM Army Community Service Program Assistant, organizes helpful pamphlets in her new office at the corner of Gruber and Logistics in the 1st COSCOM area. Photo by Spc. Travis Edwards/ 1st COSCOM PAO

soldiers and their families with information on the types of programs available and refer them to the agencies that can assist them with their particular concern."

Young is married to a COSCOM soldier and understands the need for the program and its satellite offices. "We have programs that help new spouses understand how the Army operates, coping with long and short deployments, distressing programs, children dealing with deployments, and many others. With many units deploying, there is a need for it," said Young.

Young has the ability to not only advise the soldier or family members on the programs available, but also schedule and register them for the different types of training and classes available right from her office. ACS wants to build a habitual relationship with the commander's and soldiers in 1st COSCOM. By having the office here with one key point of contact, ACS is enabling a trusting relationship. This method puts a familiar face for the soldiers to be comfortable with, rather than them having to deal with a different face every time, said Young.

God puts potential within everyone to become heroes

By

Chap. (Lt. Col.) David Reese
1st COSCOM Chaplain

Our conversation took place late in the evening as the soldier prepped the Australian showers for the next round of dirty soldiers to enter and wash away evidence of a hard day's work. The soldier checks the immersion heaters to make sure the water was warm enough to make a difference. During his preparation he tells me about his mom. "Yeah, she teaches second grade in Philly. She's real proud of me. She's even got me and my brother's picture up on the wall in class, next to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King."



Chap. Reese

The image of Pfc. Johnson's eight-by-ten photo hanging in front of a classroom full of impressionable six

and seven year olds, has left its mark on my memory since we talked that cold night outside of Rafha, Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm. Here he was, warming up water for his fellow soldiers between shifts as a radio operator. He was thin, tired, and way too young to be a hero; but to his mom, to a class of second graders, and to me, his picture really did belong alongside men who shaped a nation. Johnson would never consider himself a hero, but the legacy he modeled for twenty-five children sent a powerful message just the opposite.

Heroes are surely the ones who, in a moment of great danger, summon tremendous strength to accomplish the seemingly impossible. But they are also the ones who are present every day, consistent in their work, in their kept promises, and in their commitment to their relationships. They are the ones we count on, regardless of how small or how large the task may be.

God has placed the potential within each of us to be a hero. He provides the opportunity and the invitation to engage in what author Eugene Peterson calls "a long obedience in the same direction" This is the stuff of which heroes are made.

Pause long enough today to answer the following three questions:

- Who was my hero when I was a kid?
- Who is my hero now?
- Who might be looking to me to be their hero?

That last one may stump you, or it may frighten you. Could it be a co-worker? A friend? That child you drove to school this morning? Someone may be looking to you to find a pattern of consistent behavior motivated by consistent values – they may be looking to you to be their hero. Allow that thought to penetrate your brain for a moment and then allow it to impact your behavior. Remain faithful and watch what God does with his heroes.



MEAL REPLACEMENT CONCEPT

1st COSCOM Dining Facility's express Take-Out service

This is a new program offering additional meals for meal card holders only. Programs hours are between 6-9 p.m.

1st Corps Support Command soldiers take advantage of the new express take-out service offered by the Dining Facility. *Photo by Spc. Travis Edwards/1st COSCOM PAO*

ENTREES

Hoagie
Burger/Cheeseburger
Wings (BBQ or PLAIN)
Chicken Tenders
Individual Pizza
Alfredo Chicken or Pot Roast
Vegetarian Meal

SIDE ITEMS

Garden Salads
Potato Chips
Dessert Item (Apple/Cherry Pie)

Video Valentines

Story and photos by Spc. Timothy Hettich, 1st COSCOM PAO

With so many troops still deployed in support of our country's war on terror families left behind are expected to carry on with their lives as usual. Children grow, spouses may get a new haircut or a new dog, whatever it may be things obviously change when soldiers are gone. In the past communications to inform deployed soldiers of these changes were limited to letters or phone calls but now there are different options which allow soldiers to see their loved ones as well as hear them.

An event called Video Valentine took place Thursday

to give friends and families of deployed soldiers the opportunity to record a live message for Valentines Day to be sent via Internet. The event was coordinated by the Ft. Bragg Enlisted Spouses Association in collaboration with the American Red Cross who provided the computer equipment to make and send the messages.

"Soldiers from all over the world will be able to view live action video of their parents, spouses, and children or see their babies crawl or walk for the first time, said Rita G. Sizemore," ESA.

"The American Red Cross has been providing the Army this ability since August, and since then we have sent

hundreds of messages, said Kendra Gomlak," Director of development for the Highlands Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Altogether 68 groups for families and friends showed up for the occasion.

"We had a really great response with this project," said Gomlak.

"People from all over showed up, it was a really great mix.

Some were sending messages to their loved ones who had been gone up to a year and some who had only been gone for three weeks.

Susan Kampschroer, the wife of a deployed soldier attended with her daughters

to send her husband a message.

"It's important for us to do this because since we can't be there physically, at least he can see how we are doing and how much we love and support him," said Kampschroer.

The American Red Cross urges families, friends to participate in events like this one.

"Anyone can schedule an appointment with us. Any Family Readiness Group, group or church can set this up and we will come out for free to help," said Gomlak.

For more information contact the American Red Cross, Highlands Chapter at (910) 867-8151.



From the Mule's Mouth What do you think of the 1st COSCOM's Dinning Facility?

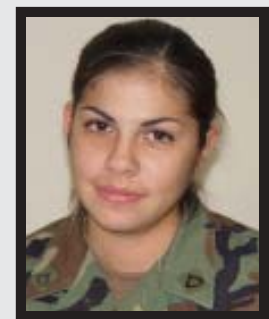


"I love the food and the atmosphere. We eat here everyday, twice a day."

-2nd. Lt. Joseph L. Perry

- Physician Assistant

Soldier Readiness Center, Joel Clinic

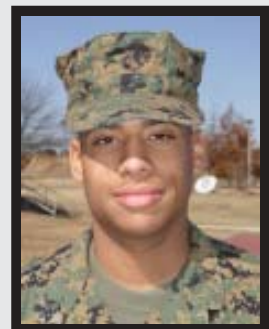


"Friendly service and they always have something different."

-Pfc. Samantha A. Martinez

- Legal Clerk

HHC, 1st COSCOM



"I'd eat here everyday if it weren't three hours away from work."

Marine LCPL Jesse A. Walton-

Generator Mechanic

4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade

Camp Lejuene

SHARPSHOOTERS



A day in the life of



1st Corps Support Command



Photos by Spc, Travis D. Edwards

